

Applicant : Gerhard Brendel  
Appln. No. : 10/598,907  
Page : 5

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (new) Method for coating substrates with at least one coating material comprising providing at least one organic component and applying the coating material to the substrate by atomization and spraying, wherein the coating material is atomized by water vapor.

12. (new) Method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating material is a water-based paint or an essentially solvent-free hot melt paint.

13. (new) Method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating material is applied as primer, top coat, filler or clearcoat.

14. (new) Method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating material, by flowing through a nozzle arrangement, is atomized with the water vapor acting as auxiliary gas and is sprayed onto the substrate.

15. (new) Method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the water vapor flows out of a nozzle arrangement, with or adjacent to the coating material, with the water vapor of the nozzle arrangement being fed at a pressure of 0.5 to 10 bar.

16. (new) Method in accordance with claim 11, wherein metals, plastics or wood materials are used as the substrate.

17. (new) A system for coating substrates in accordance with claim 11, with at least one nozzle arrangement for atomizing and spraying the coating material onto the substrate and

Applicant : Gerhard Brendel  
Appln. No. : 10/598,907  
Page : 6

including at least a first supply device for providing and feeding the coating material to the nozzle arrangement and at least a second supply device for preparing and feeding an auxiliary gas to the nozzle arrangement for atomizing the coating material, wherein the second supply device comprises a water-vapor generator.

18. (new) System in accordance with claim 17, wherein the second supply device and/or a feed line to the nozzle arrangement comprises a pressure-increasing or compression device, with which the water vapor can be brought to operating pressure in the range of 0.5 to 10 bar.

19. (new) System in accordance with claim 7, wherein the spray gun has a heating device and/or a pressure-increasing device for converting nearly all of the water into the vapor phase.

20. (new) System in accordance with claim 17, wherein the pressure-increasing device is formed by a reduction in cross section of a feed line.